

## CLAIM LISTING

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of handling requests within an autonomic system, the method comprising the steps of:

handling requests with a handler;

detecting an overload condition for said handler;

directing requests to an alternative handler;

initializing a return timer;

when said return timer exceeds a time threshold for said alternative handler, routing requests to said handler; [[and]]

automatically adjusting said time threshold based upon a period using said handler[.];

detecting an overload condition for said alternative handler;

directing requests to another alternative handler;

starting another return timer, and when said another return timer exceeds a time threshold for said another alternative handler, routing requests to said handler; and

automatically adjusting said time threshold for said another alternative handler based upon a period using said alternative handler.

2.-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An autonomic system for serving applications comprising:  
an application server configured to receive client requests and configured to selectively provide server responses to said client requests;

a status hub configured to receive usage messages and responsively publish system status messages; [[and]]

a handler selector configured to automatically select a handler from among a plurality of handlers based upon said system status messages, wherein said handler selector directs requests from a primary handler to a secondary handler if a system status message for said primary handler indicates an overload condition[.];

a return timer that is initialized when requests are routed to said secondary handler and that includes a timer threshold for said secondary handler, wherein said handler selector redirects requests to said primary handler when said return timer exceeds said time threshold and directs requests from said secondary handler to a tertiary handler if a system status message for said secondary handler indicates an overload condition; and

another return timer that is initialized when requests are routed to said tertiary handler and that includes a timer threshold for said tertiary handler, wherein said handler selector redirects requests to said primary handler from said tertiary handler when said another return timer exceeds said time threshold for said tertiary handler.

14.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

handling requests with a handler within an autonomic system;

detecting an overload condition for said handler;

directing requests to an alternative handler;

initializing a return timer;

when said return timer exceeds a time threshold for said alternative handler, routing requests to said handler; and

automatically adjusting said time threshold based upon a period using said handler[.];

detecting an overload condition for said alternative handler;

directing requests to another alternative handler;  
starting another return timer, and when said another return timer exceeds a time  
threshold for said another alternative handler, routing requests to said handler; and  
automatically adjusting said time threshold for said another alternative handler based  
upon a period using said alternative handler.

19.-30 (Cancelled)